

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A simulation calculation service providing method of providing simulation calculation in a server system connected to a user terminal apparatus and a consultant terminal apparatus through a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a condition of the simulation calculation from the user terminal apparatus as a user presented condition;

registering the received user presented condition;

receiving, from the consultant terminal apparatus, a bidding condition from a consultant in correspondence with the registered user presented condition;

comparing the user presented condition with the bidding condition and selecting a bidding condition that coincides with the user presented condition;

inquiring of the user terminal apparatus about whether the simulation calculation is to be executed on the basis of the selected bidding condition; and

executing the simulation calculation and storing a simulation calculation result on a computer readable medium, in accordance with an answer to the inquiry,

wherein the simulation calculation is a discrete set of computer instructions and data representing physical

properties of a physical system, the physical system specified by a portion of the condition, and the simulation calculation result is an analysis of the physical system.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of

estimating a price of the simulation calculation on the basis of the received user presented condition, and

transmitting an estimation result of the estimated price to the user terminal apparatus and inquiring about whether the simulation calculation is to be executed.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein

the estimation step comprises the step of determining on the basis of the user presented condition whether the simulation calculation can be executed, and

the inquiry step comprises the step of transmitting a determination result to the user terminal apparatus and inquiring whether the simulation calculation is to be executed.

4. (original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of, when the answer to the inquiry indicates an instruction for changing the condition of the simulation calculation, estimating the price of the simulation calculation again.

5. (original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of

billing a user who has requested the simulation calculation the estimated price, and

paying an amount obtained by deducting a commission from the estimated price to a consultant who has made a successful bid for the simulation calculation.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of causing the user terminal apparatus and the consultant terminal apparatus to access the server system by using at least one of an Internet provider and a LAN.

7. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of

inputting the user presented condition by using one of a browser and a graphical user interface prepared in the user terminal apparatus, and other input means, and

displaying a result of the simulation calculation.

8. (currently amended) A simulation calculation service providing system comprising:

a user terminal apparatus which comprises simulation condition input means for inputting a simulation calculation condition, and user terminal communication means for transmitting the input simulation calculation condition as a user presented condition;

a consultant terminal apparatus which comprises consultant input means for inputting a consultant bidding condition for the user presented condition, and consultant terminal communication means for transmitting the input consultant bidding condition; and

a server system which comprises

matching means comprising comparison means for comparing the user presented condition with the bidding condition,

selection means for selecting a bidding condition that coincides with the user presented condition, and

inquiry means for inquiring about whether simulation calculation is to be executed on the basis of the selected bidding condition,

simulation means for executing the simulation calculation in accordance with an answer to an inquiry result and storing a simulation calculation result on a computer readable medium, and

transmission/reception means for transmitting the inquiry and

receiving the user presented condition, the bidding condition, and [[an]] the answer to the inquiry,

wherein the simulation calculation is a discrete set of computer instructions and data representing physical properties of a physical system, the physical system specified by a portion of the condition, and the simulation calculation result is an analysis of the physical system.

9. (original) A system according to claim 8, wherein said user terminal communication means and said consultant terminal communication means access said server system through at least one of an Internet provider and a LAN.

10. (original) A system according to claim 8, wherein said simulation condition input means comprises at least one of a browser and graphical user interface, and other input means.

11. (original) A system according to claim 8, wherein said user terminal apparatus further comprises display means for displaying a simulation result.

12. (currently amended) A server system comprising:  
matching means which comprises comparison means for comparing a user presented condition as simulation condition with a consultant bidding condition for the user presented condition, selection means for selecting a bidding condition that coincides with the user presented condition, and inquiry means for inquiring about whether simulation calculation is to be executed on the basis of the selected bidding condition;  
simulation means for executing the simulation calculation in accordance with an inquiry result and storing a simulation calculation result on a computer readable medium;  
and

transmission/reception means for transmitting the inquiry and receiving the user presented condition, the bidding condition, and an answer to the inquiry,

wherein the simulation calculation is a discrete set of computer instructions and data representing physical properties of a physical system, the physical system specified by a portion of the condition, and the simulation calculation result is an analysis of the physical system.

13. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising estimation means for executing estimation about the simulation calculation on the basis of the user presented condition.

14. (original) A system according to claim 13, wherein said estimation means comprises price estimation means for estimating a price of the simulation calculation.

15. (original) A system according to claim 13, wherein said estimation means comprises calculation capability determination means for determining whether the simulation calculation can be executed.

16. (original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said comparison means compares the consultant bidding condition with a rank to identify a technical capability of a consultant who is to execute the simulation calculation.

17. (original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said comparison means selects the condition that coincide with the user presented condition on the basis of a priority of the simulation calculation condition.

18. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising charging means for charging for the simulation calculation.

19. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising encryption means for encrypting a signal to be transmitted.

20. (original) A system according to claim 13, further comprising trial calculation means for executing simulation calculation by way of trial for a non member user.

21. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising  
authentication means for executing member  
authenticating,  
registration means for executing member registration  
of a user, and  
a DB which stores information of users who have  
already been registered as members.

22. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising

information management means for transmitting an acknowledge signal for requested information in response to an access request, and

storage means for storing a result of the simulation calculation.

23. (original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising simulation result analysis means for transmitting, to the user terminal apparatus, intellectual added value information added by a consultant who has referred to a result of the simulation calculation together with the result of the simulation calculation.

24. (original) A system according to claim 18, further comprising money reception means for receiving compensation for a consultant.

25. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium that records a program for causing a computer to function as:

price estimation means for estimating a price of simulation calculation on the basis of a user presented condition as a simulation condition;

calculation capability determination means for determining on the basis of the user presented condition whether the simulation calculation can be executed;



comparison means for comparing the user presented condition with a consultant bidding condition for the user presented condition;

selection means for selecting a bidding condition that coincides with the user presented condition;

inquiry means for inquiring about the simulation calculation is to be executed on the basis of the selected bidding condition;

simulation means for executing the simulation calculation in accordance with a result of the inquiry and storing a simulation calculation result on a computer readable medium;

transmission/reception means for transmitting the inquiry about results from said price estimation means and said calculation capability determination means and receiving the user presented condition, the bidding condition, and answers to the results from said price estimation means and said calculation capability determination means;

charging means for charging for the simulation calculation;

encryption means for encrypting the inquiry, the user presented condition, the bidding condition, and the answer to the inquiry; and

trial calculation means for executing simulation calculation by way of trial for a non member user,

wherein the simulation calculation is a discrete set of computer instructions and data representing physical properties of a physical system, the physical system specified

by a portion of the condition, and the simulation calculation  
result is an analysis of the physical system.